



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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Information from the Employment Security Department

August 18, 2006

How to apply for unemployment benefits

Affected Tyson Fresh Meats workers may apply for benefits at any time, either online or by phone – although benefit checks will not actually be issued until the layoff takes effect. Completing the application process before the layoff can help workers receive benefits in a timely manner. Applications may also be submitted after the layoff date.

- Apply online at www.go2ui.com (24 hours a day)
- Apply by phone at: 800-318-6022 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)
- TTY for the deaf: 800-365-8969 (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.)

If requested, the Employment Security Department will meet with workers to provide personal assistance in filing for unemployment insurance. These arrangements will be coordinated through Tyson Fresh Meats.

Required documentation:

- Social Security Number (alien registration #, if not a U.S. citizen)
- Name and address of all employers for the last two years - including dates of employment
- If in the military within the last two years, a copy of the DD214
- If a federal employee within the last two years, a copy of standard forms 8 and 50

Unemployment benefits last up to 26 weeks

If a worker qualifies as "dislocated" and is in a full-time training program, he or she may be eligible for training benefits – which provide up to 26 additional weeks of unemployment insurance coverage.

Benefit levels are based on monthly salary or wages

The maximum weekly check is \$496 (for someone earning about \$4,300 a month) and the minimum is \$116 (based on monthly wages of about \$1,000). An unemployed worker who earned \$2,500 a month (about \$30,000 a year) could expect a weekly benefit of about \$290.

Retraining programs

Retraining will be coordinated through WorkSource offices in Walla Walla and the Tri-Cities, in partnership with Employment Security, the Eastern Washington and Benton-Franklin Workforce Development Councils, and a team of employment and training providers. Training for dislocated workers is usually customized to the person.

To be eligible for retraining, a person must be eligible for, or have exhausted, UI benefits within the last 24 months. They also may qualify for financial aid for other educational needs and for services such as child-care and limited transportation costs.

Finding a new job

WorkSource Walla Walla, located at 1530 Stevens (509-527-4393), and WorkSouce Columbia Basin, located at 815 N. Kellogg in Kennewick (509-734-5900), can help match job seekers with job openings in the local community, throughout Washington and nationwide. Currently, about 39,000 job openings in Washington are posted online at www.go2worksource.com.

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